

# REDUCE YOUR USE



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Clare County Council

Clare County Council's climate change strategy is primarily focused on adaptation to climate change and aims to identify the council's vulnerabilities and the major risks facing the county. It will develop a pathway on how to adapt and plan to strengthen the physical infrastructure, biodiversity and also develop resilience in communities to deal with the effects of climate change. These are major challenges facing every local authority, but Clare is determined to lead by example and that starts with its own environmental footprint.

The Reduce Your Use campaign helps the council to refocus on the small actions done consistently, that will lead to worthwhile energy and carbon emissions savings over time. The initiative has reinvigorated the council's own efforts around thermal fuel use in its buildings. Through the collaboration and engagement of the council's enthusiastic staff members the county continues to advance towards its decarbonisation ambitions.



**5-10% energy savings**  
(large corporate buildings in 2022)



**38 buildings** ranging from heritage to modern



Clare County Council Building, Ennis with no lights on!

## Heating and lighting



- Turned off heating and utilities outside building operating hours
- Set internal space heating temperature to 19 degrees in most buildings.
- Shut down heat in office buildings at least 1-2 hours before building close.
- Increased insulation on heating pipes and valves in plant rooms.
- Boiler cleaning / efficiency tests have been increased.
- Optimised water heating in most buildings in order to save Energy.



- Reduced unnecessary use of lighting.
- Turned off display lighting/window/feature display lighting between 5 and 7 pm every day.

## Control and scheduling



- Assessed and optimised the core and extended hours of operation.
- Ensured that operational control is appropriate to hours of work and services delivered. Staff hours are flexible and remote working is facilitated.
- Reduced electricity use at peak times.
- Building Management System schedules reviewed to identify savings.
- Computer optimisation programme enters all PC's / Laptops connected to the system, into sleep if they are idle for more than 10 minutes.



Energy Awareness Day, held quarterly



## Facilities assessments

- Comprehensive audit and operational controls strategies for Significant Energy Users.
- Energy efficiency assessment or audit of most buildings.
- Out-of-hours walk-through carried out in a number of buildings.
- Operations and Maintenance Audit carried out in most buildings.
- Significant Energy Users account holders have identified opportunities to be implemented in Q1 2023.

